Boston, 221 Washn. St. Apr 29/62

Dear friend Webb,

After all I must let these speak for me this time. Day after day has glided by, & slipped out of my hands, without giving me the needful opportunity to write to you, as I have been wishing to do for the past 2 or 3 European Mails. I am bound, first of all, to thank you for the great liberality shown to me, in allowing me so large & disproportionate a space in the April *Advocate*. I cd. not think the letter worth so much space, yet so good a judge & so careful a person as E. Wigham speaks kindly of the letter, so impartial & cool a person as C. K. Whipple spoke to me of it in very favorable terms, and Miller McKim (one of our very oldest, most indefatigable, & most 'wise-like' abolitionists – albeit just now seemingly rather out of favour on yt. side the water) commends it in terms much stronger than I should venture to repeat, – You published indeed a considerable part that I designed only for Miss W.'s private ear, and that of any friends to whom she might show it. Thus a good-sized piece was added on, in addition to what I had the face to ask for; but I have no other objection to the publication than the length. And as to your apology for seeming to take to yourself (about the money donations) what was meant for Eliza W., the idea had not occurred to me until you suggested it. Nor did you, even on the look of it, receive any testimony that was not due to you & much more strongly than I had expressed it; for it was all true of your own successful labours for us.

Next I must thank you – & again & again – for sending us the photographs of yourself & your wife. Ade. was the possessor of our (then) only photograph book – (Bessie has become the owner of one since, on her 12th birthday) – and they were forthwith installed therein, much to our gratification. They now are in companionship with C. Sumner, W. Phillips, 2 of Garrison's boys, Abraham Lincoln, Gen. Scott, the Prince of Wales, Prince Napoleon, Wm C. Bryant, Jas. Russell Lowell, Rev. J. F. Clarke, and quite a little party of our family connexions & friends. My wife and Ade. were greatly amused at the manner in which you spoke of these pictures. [Lincoln, Scott, the 2 Princes, & others, were gifts – not selected by Ade. as her favourites. C. Sumner is her Magnus Apollo.]

I must tell you what M. D. Conway of Cincinnati said, one day lately, when in Boston. He was some weeks here, lecturing in this vicinity. One morning he walked in, & up to Wallcut's desk, (not seeing me in the little partitioned-off room where I sat,) & said – I took down the words at the time – "I am very much delighted with Webb's Life of John Brown,

* I am writing the latter part of this at the house (my father's), and the said accounts are at the office – so I can't be positive of the exact time.

and I want another copy to lend." This was an honest opinion, unsought, & very hearty; and he bought & paid for his 2d copy. His judgment is good, & his standard the highest. So I think you may accept his words as a very satisfactory assurance that the work was well & rightly done; and when I say you, I mean Mrs. Webb too.

Last Wednesday (23d) I rec. yrs. of April 8th; which you begin by scolding us a little ("in the A.S. offices in New York & Boston") for "often" getting you into disgrace with subscribers by want of promptness about forwarding papers ordered, & you instance a late case. As I had twice tried to get information of you about that case, I think it a rather unfortunate illustration, (but perhaps my letters miscarried.) Let me state briefly the facts. When Alfred sent the yearly acct., (or rather I think in his postscript to said acct. which was 2 or 3 wks. later,*) there was mentioned the words "Miss Biggs, 12/6". Where she lived, or who she was, were not told, nor was it said what the 12/6 was for; but, I judged, probably for the Standard, as that word was written before the name which stood over hers, but no ditto, or double commas, made it quite clear. And if that point had been entirely clear, still we wouldn't have known where to send the paper. I wrote to the Standard office, & was informed there was no such name on the foreign lists of the paper. Then I applied to Mr. Wallcut; No such name stood on Liberator books. At my next writing I named the case to you. Long waiting & no reply; – meanwhile naming it in a 2d letter. (all this, according to my confident recollection) I couldn't settle up, post, & exhibit my acct. to you, as I desired, for want of knowing about this item. Last Wednesday comes your note, stirring us up a little for negligence. I read it to Wallcut, who was alone in the office with me. He said, in a deprecating tone, that he had "always tried to be very particular in regard to all the foreign subscribers." [and I think, myself, that he has tried hard; and I supposed with general success – more so, probably, than in the case of the Standard office, where, from unavoidable circumstances, the keeping of the books has changed hands oftener than the Liberator's.] Then I wrote

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immediately to Standard office; and today receive the clerk's (Mr. Leonard's) reply – which I enclose, that you may have his own statement. – I shall pay the $3. [12/6] to the Standard, for Mr. Biggs, when I am in NewYork at annual Meetg. next week, and hope that all will then be straight. I have been thus particular in stating the facts in the case, simply to shew that we have endeavored to do our duty in the case. I remember there was a delay of some weeks, on my part, in writing to know who ~~th~~ & where this subscriber was; for I expected certainly to receive more particular information from you, – and I did not think it needful to write for that point alone. – I requested Mr. Wallcut to discontinue Dr. Hutton's Liberator; and he said it had been discontinued since 1st January last. – I remember him well, & was delighted with his cordial, sincere, sunny nature. I had the pleasure to hear him preach at his Chapel in Little Carter Lane, St. Paul's, London; &, on the succeeding Sunday, the honour to preach myself in his pulpit.

In place of writing a word myself on American affairs, for which I haven't time nor space, I think I will venture to send you a note I lately recd. from Mr. Kim – not, I trust, for its compliments to myself, which I cannot feel as belonging to me so fully, but for his criticism on Pillsbury's letter in the April Advocate, & his self-vindication as to his correspondence with his English friends.

You kindly – as oft before – ask after Edward. Three tedious months his vessel lay in sight of Fort Pulaski (indeed only some 4 ms. away) watching it, blockading one of the water communications between it & the main-land, & supporting the Federal batteries erected on 2 islands in the Savannah river. At last came the bombardment of the Fort, April 10 & 11, & its Reduction & Surrender – all which he witnessed. He had expected his vessel would take part; but just before the attack the Naval forces were ordered to take no part. The day after the fort was surrendered he visited it, – saw the prisoners & talked with some of them. They were exceeding bitter, he said, against the North – hoped to live to fight them again, &c. but civil, & reasonably. These were the officers. The men seemed relieved, & some even glad of the defeat of the South. – E. was very well. – To-day we hear that N. Orleans has fallen into our hands; but the news may be premature. – Wendell Phillips has more confidence in Pres. Lincoln since talking with him.

But no more, – tho' nothing much to say – Save that I am, with sincere respect & regard, Yrs. S. May Jr.